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## IUCN's Comments on the Draft Outcome Document (3 June 2005) for the High-Level Plenary Session of the General Assembly

IUCN welcomes the release of the June 3 draft of the Draft Outcome Document for the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in September. As a global organization with long-standing field experience in conservation and development, IUCN underlines the centrality of conservation and sustainable natural resource management to poverty eradication and development in general.

Our message is simple. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are interconnected and cannot be achieved in isolation, nor can they be achieved sequentially. Investing in MDG7 on environmental sustainability contributes to achieving the other MDGs. Failure to invest adequately in MDG7 will, through accelerated degradation of the essential ecosystem services upon which they depend, undermine our ability to achieve each of the other MDGs.

Our message is positive. Investing in environmental sustainability, rather than being a "tax on development" or an "ad-on" to the development agenda, is an effective and efficient intervention and leverage point. Environmental sustainability supports and integrates multiple development goals. The Greenbelt movement in East Africa started by planting trees, and it succeeded in reducing poverty, empowering women, enhancing the sustainability of the natural resource base, and reducing the potential for conflict over natural resources.

Our message is shared. *In Larger Freedom* states that: "We fundamentally depend on natural systems and resources for our existence and development. Our efforts to defeat poverty and pursue sustainable development will be in vain if environmental degradation and natural resource depletion continue unabated."

The *Millennium Project* concludes that: "Environmental sustainability is the foundation on which strategies for achieving all the other Millennium Development Goals must be built, because environmental degradation is causally linked to problems of poverty, hunger, gender inequality, and health. Protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development in developing countries, especially, and changing consumption and production patterns, particularly in wealthy nations, are fundamental requirements for

improving human health and well-being. Integrating the principles and practices of environmental sustainability into country policies and planning programs is therefore key to successful poverty reduction strategies.”

The *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, a comprehensive assessment of the state of the planet’s ecosystems carried out by nearly 1400 leading experts from 95 countries, points out that: “The loss of services derived from ecosystems is a significant barrier to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals to reduce poverty, hunger, and disease.”

The centrality of sustainable development to the achievement of other global goals and targets was recognized by the General Assembly in resolution A/RES/57/253, welcoming the outputs of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The General Assembly decided “to adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.”

IUCN therefore calls on the Millennium Review Summit to:

1. Ensure that environmental sustainability, and the existing national plans and strategies that

Created in 1948, IUCN - The World Conservation Union brings together 82 States, 111 Government agencies, 800 plus NGO’s, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. IUCN’s mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN is the world’s largest environmental knowledge network and has helped over 75 countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies. IUCN is a multicultural, multilingual organization with 1000 staff located in 62 countries. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

articulate investment priorities for it, are mainstreamed into national planning frameworks for growth, poverty reduction, and each of the other MDGs.

2. In line with the above; donor governments should re-commit to achieve the 0.7% ODA target, at a minimum, and commit to invest a proportionally larger share of *new* ODA flows to achieving environmental sustainability; and recipient countries should commit to the equitable and effective use of ODA.
3. Recognize and integrate the contributions of ecosystem services to household and national economies as well as the economic and livelihoods costs of environmental degradation, and commit to better developing and using better measurement tools and decision-making frameworks to facilitate this.
4. Recognize the Biodiversity 2010 target adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development as a critical milestone to achieve MDG7 and the rest of the MDGs by 2015.

With this perspective in mind, IUCN offers the following specific recommendations on the June 3 Draft Outcome Document:

*IUCN Commentary on the Draft Outcome Document of 3 June and Proposed Amendments*

Para. Ref.	Current text	Commentary	Proposed Amendments
8 bis		IUCN recognizes the interdependent relationship of development, security and human rights. IUCN also recognizes that each of these are interdependent with environmental sustainability. IUCN notes that in welcoming the outputs of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the General Assembly declared sustainable development to be part of the overarching framework for the United Nations.	Insert new paragraph: <b><i>We declare that environmental sustainability is essential to the achievement of development, security and human rights, and reaffirm that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the Internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as agreed by the General Assembly in A/RES/57/25.</i></b>
13, 1 <sup>st</sup> bullet	Adopt, by 2006, and begin to implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the development goals and objectives by 2015.	Much of the implementation of the Development cluster of the Millennium Review Summit will largely consist of a new round of national planning exercises intended to align various national planning processes with the MDGs, including PRSPs and poverty reduction strategies. A number of key national planning processes have been conducted over the last several years to establish national investment priorities to ensure environmental sustainability and these should be mainstreamed into future national planning processes and PRSPs.	Adopt, by 2006, and begin to implement comprehensive, <b><i>integrated</i></b> national development strategies to achieve the development goals objectives by 2015 <b><i>which draw on, inter alia, existing National Sustainable Development, sectoral strategies, and national strategies and action plans pursuant to multilateral environmental agreements.</i></b>
14, 1 <sup>st</sup> bullet	Welcome the establishment of timetables by developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by no later than 2015 and reaching at least 0.5 per cent by 2009 and invite those developed countries that have not yet done so to strive to establish timetables and to make concrete	ODA for the environment, as a percentage of total ODA, has dropped to 1.3% from a high of 2.8% in 1995. Several leading donor countries, including Sweden and the Netherlands, have recognized that the MDGs are not achievable in the long run unless the international community invests more in environmental sustainability. IUCN calls on all donors to follow this lead and earmark a proportion of all <b><i>new and additional</i></b> aid flows	Welcome the establishment of timetables by developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by no later than 2015 and reaching at least 0.5 per cent by 2009 and invite those developed countries that have not yet done so to strive to establish timetables and to make concrete efforts to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent; also, urge developed countries to achieve the target of

	efforts to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent; also, urge developed countries to achieve the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for ODA to least developed countries;	for environmental sustainability. This should be seen as a means of implementing the JPOI's call for new and additional financial and technical resources to support the critical role of biodiversity in sustainable development and poverty eradication. (See JPOI, para. 44)	0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for ODA to least developed countries; <b>and earmark a proportion of new ODA flows to achieving environmental sustainability.</b>
14, new bullet		The Global Environment Facility (GEF) supports projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. The GEF is thus a key international financing mechanism to achieve MDG 7 on environmental sustainability as well as the other MDGs, and the General Assembly should recognize and support the on-going negotiations for the GEF's fourth replenishment.	Insert new bullet point: <b>Ensure a full and effective fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility that reflects the increased scope of work requested of the GEF.</b>
18	We reaffirm our commitment to achieve the goal of sustainable development including through the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We therefore resolve to:	<i>In Larger Freedom</i> contains a succinct and clear rationale for investing in sustainable development. IUCN therefore recommends the inclusion of the relevant text from <i>In Larger Freedom</i> (para. 57) in the chapeau of Para. 18.	<b>We recognize that we fundamentally depend on natural systems and resources for our existence and development. Our efforts to defeat poverty and pursue sustainable development will be in vain if environmental degradation and natural resource depletion continue unabated.</b> We reaffirm our commitment to achieve the goal of sustainable development including through the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We therefore resolve to:
18, 4 <sup>th</sup> bullet	Implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Johannesburg commitment for a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010;	IUCN particularly welcomes the focus on implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2010 target established by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and calls for additional measures to address the major drivers of biodiversity loss.	Implement the Convention on Biological Diversity <b>and re-double efforts to meet the Johannesburg commitment for a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, recognizing the work plans and targets of the CBD as key strategies and benchmarks to achieve MDG7 and contribute to the other MDGs.</b>
18, 6 <sup>th</sup> bullet	Decide to facilitate access to water for all and to accelerate the preparation	The paragraph as it stands is incomplete, especially in light of the existing target from	<b>Ensure ecologically sustainable access to water and sanitation for all and accelerate</b>

	of national integrated water management and water-efficiency plans;	the JPOI to have national plans by 2005. To build on paragraphs 24 and 26 of the JPOI and the outcomes of CSD13, IUCN suggests the following reformulation	<b>the development and implementation of integrated water resource management (IWRM) plans with emphasis on meeting basic human needs and guaranteeing environmental flows to people and ecosystem services to people and biodiversity.</b>
18, new bullet		There is no reference to marine issues in the text, despite the fact that oceans are the traditional purview of the General Assembly. IUCN therefore calls for the insertion of an additional bullet point dealing with the sustainability of the world's oceans and marine resources.	Insert new bullet: <b>Promote (i) sustainable fisheries including concerted action on illegal, unregulated and underreported fishing practices and destructive fishing practices such as bottom trawling through Regional Marine Fisheries Organizations where appropriate; (ii) the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks; and (iii) protection of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction including through the promotion of high-seas marine protected areas, seamount conservation, and the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of genetic resources of the deep sea bed.</b>
20, 1 <sup>st</sup> bullet	Increasing primary school completion and secondary school access for girls; ensuring secure tenure of property to women	Women have access to only 5% of the concessions granted worldwide on natural resource use and management and yet most of the financial resources women obtain from the use of biodiversity (from 95% to 98%) are used to improve the living conditions of their families. Women provide close to 80% of the total wild food collected in 135 different subsistence-based societies. IUCN therefore call for greater access for women to natural resources and their benefits.	Increasing primary school completion and secondary school access for girls; ensuring secure tenure of property to women <b>and equitable access to natural resources and the flow of financial and other resources derived from them;</b>